scheme of Rainfed Area Development Programme which has been annqunced in the current year's budget.

Further, Government has launched two new programmes namely, 'National Food Security Mission (NFSM)' and 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)' on the recommendation of the National Development Council (NDC). Special emphasis has been given for dryland areas under the RKVY programme by making a provision of 25% allocation on the basis of net sown unirrigated areas in the States. Both these schemes are being implemented in the State of Rajasthan.

MSP of agricultural products

†1175. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minsiter of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum support price of agricultural products is not very reasonable and transparent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the present system, actual market price of agricultural produce is not considered; and

(c) whether Government will determine the procurement prices of all agricultural products before seeding/sowing season of the crops so that their minimum support price could be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), while formulating its recommendations on price policy, considers a host of factors like cost of production in the States, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in domestic and global market forces, effects on industrial cost structure, parity between prices paid and received by the farmers. The Government decides on the support price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the CACP, the views of Central Ministries, State Governments and other relevant important factors. The main objective of the MSP is to ensure the farmers a reasonable and remunerative price of their produce.

(c) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 25 major crops. It has no proposal to declare minimum support prices of all agricultural products.

Continuous cases of suicide by farmers in Vidarbha

1176. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has lately recurred any report about the causes of continuing suicides by farmers in Vidarbha;

(b) if so, the main reasons and circumstances leading to suicides as revealed by this inquiry report; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken by Government to prevent suicides by farmers under pressure of debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.